

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A dispersion of colored particles which is prepared by emulsifying a mixture comprising a colorant and polymer by employing a reactive emulsifier, and subsequently copolymerizing the emulsified mixture with a polymerizable monomer, wherein the colorant is an oil-soluble dye.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the colored particles are in a core/shell structure.

4. (Original) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein a ratio of a colorant to a polymer is 1 : 0.1 – 1 : 5 by weight.

5. (Original) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the reactive emulsifier comprises a group represented by A, B, or C:

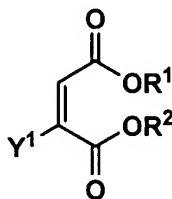
A: a straight chain alkyl group, a branched alkyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group, each having at least 7 carbon atoms,

B: a nonionic or anionic group which results in surface activity,

C: a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized.

6. (Original) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the reactive emulsifier is represented by Formula (1),

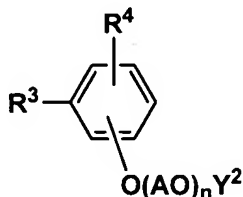
(1)



wherein R^1 represents a straight chain alkyl group or a branched alkyl group having 7 – 20 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group, R^2 represents a group having a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized, and Y^1 represents sulfonic acid, carboxylic acid or salts thereof.

7. (Original) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the reactive emulsifier is represented by Formula (2),

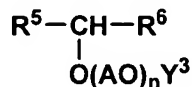
(2)



wherein R^3 represents a straight chain alkyl group or a branched alkyl group having 7 – 20 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group, R^4 represents a group having a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized, Y^2 represents a hydrogen atom, sulfonic acid and salts thereof, or carboxylic acid and salts thereof, AO represents alkylene oxide, and n represents a degree of polymerization of alkylene oxide.

8. (Original) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the reactive emulsifier is represented by Formula (3),

(3)



wherein R⁵ represents a straight chain alkyl group or a branched alkyl group having 7 – 20 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group,

R⁶ represents a group having a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized,

Y³ represents a hydrogen atom, sulfonic acid and salts thereof, or carboxylic acid and salts thereof, and

AO alkylene oxide, and n represents a degree of polymerization of alkylene oxide, and n represents a degree of polymerization of alkylene oxide.

9. (Currently Amended) The dispersion of ~~claim 6~~ claim 7, wherein an average degree n is 1 – 10.

10. (Currently Amended) The dispersion of claim 6 5, wherein the reactive emulsifier is anionic.

11. (Currently Amended) The dispersion of claim 6 1, wherein a polymer which constitutes colored particles contains an acrylic polymer or a styrene-acrylic polymer.

12. (Original) An aqueous ink comprising the dispersion of colored particles of claim 1.

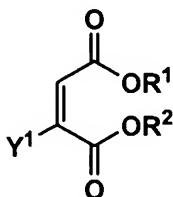
13. (Original) The aqueous ink of claim 12, wherein a peak particle diameter of colored particles is at most 50 nm.

14. (Currently Amended) An image forming method by ejecting an ink onto a image recording member by employing an ink jet recording apparatus wherein the ~~is an~~ aqueous ink of claim ~~13~~ 12 is ejected.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The preparation method of claim ~~15~~ 29, wherein the colorant is an oil-soluble dye.
17. (Currently Amended) The preparation method of claim ~~15~~ 29, wherein the colored particles are in a core/shell structure.
18. (Currently Amended) The preparation method of claim ~~17~~ 29, wherein a ratio of the colorant to the first polymer is 1 : 0.1 – 1 : 5 by weight.
19. (Currently Amended) The preparation method of claim ~~15~~ 29, wherein the reactive emulsifier comprises a group represented by A, B, or C:
 - A: a straight chain alkyl group, a branched alkyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group, each having at least 7 carbon atoms,
 - B: a nonionic or anionic group which results in surface activity,
 - C: a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized.
20. (Currently Amended) The preparation method of claim ~~15~~ 29, wherein the reactive emulsifier is represented by Formula (1),

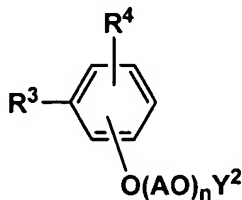
(1)



wherein R¹ represents a straight chain alkyl group or a branched alkyl group having 7 – 20 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group, R² represents a group having a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized, and Y¹ represents sulfonic acid, carboxylic acid or salts thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) The preparation method of claim ~~15~~ 29, wherein the reactive emulsifier is represented by Formula (2),

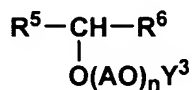
(2)



wherein R^3 represents a straight chain alkyl group or a branched alkyl group having 7 – 20 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group, R^4 represents a group having a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized, Y^2 represents a hydrogen atom, sulfonic acid and salts thereof, or carboxylic acid and salts thereof, AO represents alkylene oxide, and n represents a degree of polymerization of alkylene oxide.

22. (Currently Amended) The preparation method of claim ~~15~~ 29, wherein the reactive emulsifier is represented by Formula (3),

(3)



wherein R^5 represents a straight chain alkyl group or a branched alkyl group having 7 – 20 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group,

R^6 represents a group having a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized,

Y^3 represents a hydrogen atom, sulfonic acid and salts thereof, or carboxylic acid and salts thereof, and

AO alkylene oxide, and n represents a degree of polymerization of alkylene oxide, and n represents a degree of polymerization of alkylene oxide.

23. (Currently Amended) The preparation method of ~~claim 15~~ claim 21, wherein an average degree n is 1 – 10.

24. (Currently Amended) The preparation method of claim ~~15~~ 29, wherein the reactive emulsifier is anionic.

25. (Currently Amended) The preparation method of claim ~~16~~ 29, wherein a polymer which constitutes colored particles contains an acrylic polymer or a styrene-acrylic polymer.

26. (New) The dispersion of claim 8, wherein an average degree n is 1 – 10.

27. (New) The dispersion of claim 22, wherein an average degree n is 1 – 10.

28. (New) A dispersion of colored particles which is prepared by dissolving a polymer and a dye in an organic solvent, emulsifying the dissolved polymer and a dye in an organic solvent by employing a reactive emulsifier, and subsequently copolymerizing the emulsified mixture with a polymerizable monomer.

29. (New) A preparation method of dispersion of colored particles comprising a polymer and a colorant wherein the method comprises the steps of :

dissolving a polymer and a dye in an organic solvent,

adding a reactive emulsifier thereto and emulsifying in water,

adding a monomer, and

polymerizing the monomer with the polymer.